

**FRANK R. WOLF**

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

October 17, 2003

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The Honorable Colin Powell  
Secretary of State, Department of State  
2201 C St NW Ste 7276  
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

We are writing to express our concern that Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, still has not been brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face charges of war crimes. We ask you to put pressure on the Nigerian government to hand Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to stand trial. Charles Taylor has stated that he plans to return to Liberia one day. We can not let this happen.

The legacy of Charles Taylor's human rights abuses and corruption in Liberia is deplorable. Charles Taylor sponsored a ten-year civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone and has inflicted suffering on innocent men, women and children in unprecedented acts of cruelty, all done to satisfy the avarice of a cruel despot.

The UN-backed war crimes court unsealed an indictment on Charles Taylor at the beginning of June. He is accused of "bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law." It is well known that he provided financial support, military training, personnel, arms and other forms of assistance to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to destabilize Sierra Leone and thereby gain access to her diamond wealth.

Charles Taylor organized and ordered armed attacks throughout Sierra Leone to terrorize the civilian population and ultimately punish them for failing to provide sufficient support to the RUF, or for supporting the legitimate government. The attacks routinely included unlawful killings, abductions, forced labor, physical and sexual violence, the use of child soldiers and looting.

We have no doubt that you have found Charles Taylor's catalogue of crimes against humanity as abhorrent as we have. If we fail to bring men like this to justice, how can we expect similar atrocities not to occur in the future? Again, we urge you to do all you can to have the Nigerian government hand Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to stand trial; otherwise, he may someday return to power in Liberia.

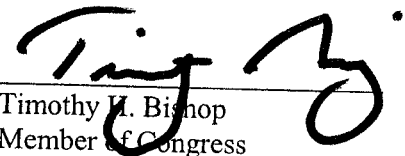
Sincerely,

  
Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

Edward R. Royce  
Member of Congress



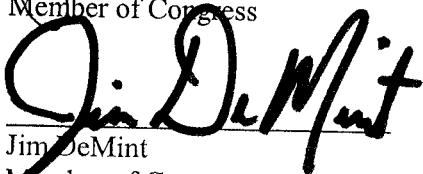
Robert B. Aderholt  
Member of Congress



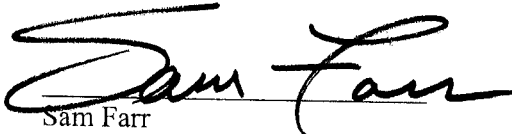
Timothy H. Bishop  
Member of Congress



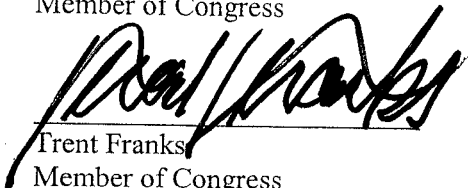
John Abney Culberson  
Member of Congress



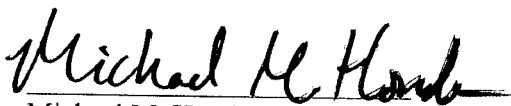
Jim DeMint  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



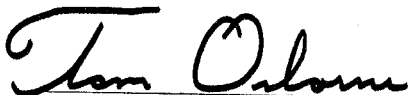
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



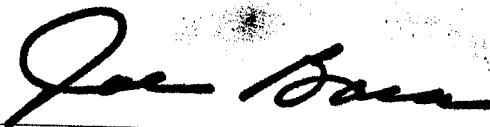
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Tom Osborne  
Member of Congress



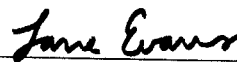
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress



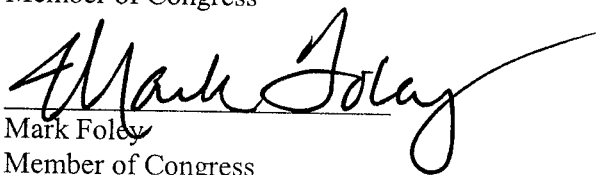
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



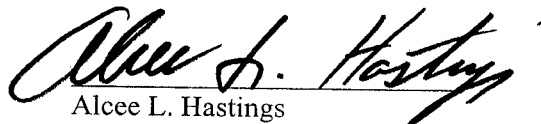
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



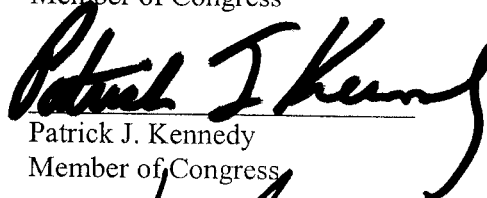
Lane Evans  
Member of Congress



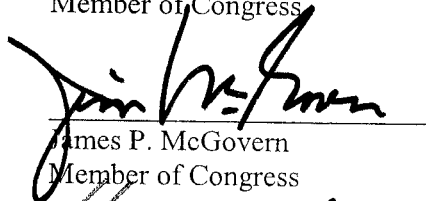
Mark Foley  
Member of Congress



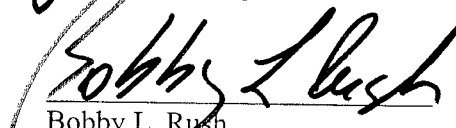
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

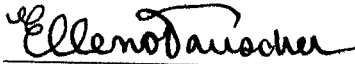
The Honorable Colin Powell

October 17, 2003

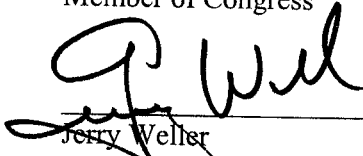
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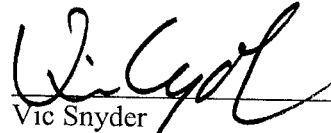
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



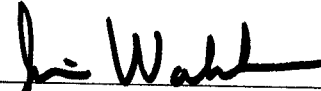
Ellen O. Tauscher  
Member of Congress



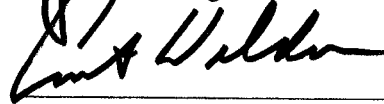
Jerry Weller  
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress



James T. Walsh  
Member of Congress



Curt Weldon  
Member of Congress